



March 21, 2016

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: SUPPORT – 640/646 Maple Avenue Sobering Center, Item #12

To the Honorable Members of Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Established in 1924, the Central City Association (CCA) is Los Angeles' premier business advocacy organization, with over 450 members employing over 350,000 people in the Los Angeles region. With thousands of homeless individuals living on Skid Row on any given day, I am writing to express our strong support to use the site located at 640/646 Maple Avenue as a new 24-hour/7-day Sobering Center. This is a compassionate and cost-effective solution to the problem of public intoxication in Skid Row, and one that gives homeless alcohol-dependent individuals a chance to receive mental health, addiction, social work, and operational services.

Once completed, the center could provide approximately 8,000 visits a year to roughly 2,000 individuals. It will give those struggling with alcoholism and addiction on Skid Row a safe and supportive place to sleep off the effects of alcohol, and tap into long-term specialized healthcare services. As a community diversion site, it will also serve as a much-needed alternative destination for both police and fire to send acutely intoxicated individuals, and break out of the revolving door of incarceration and hospitalization. It will free up more law enforcement and emergency department resources, and most importantly, increase care coordination for chronic alcoholics.

We thank you for your consideration, and strongly urge you to approve this item. This is one small, but very important step, to help Los Angeles County's homeless population and provide a clear path for recovery for those suffering from alcoholism on Skid Row.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Schatz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carol Schatz
President & CEO

Cc: Dr. Mitchell Katz
Phil Ansell
Marc Trotz